WEST VIRGINIA

ANNUAL PEST CONDITIONS REPORT

TO

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

1974

Hardwood Defoliators

Fall Cankerworm - Alsophila pometaria

This insect caused complete defoliation to 1,200 acres of Oaks and Maple in Jefferson County along the Blue Ridge Mountain in Mid-May. Complete defoliation occurred to 3,000 acres of Oaks and Maple in the Dolly Sods area of Grant County north to Mineral County. Sparse defoliation was noted as far north as Pinnacle Rock in Mineral County. The total acreage defoliated by Cankerworm in West Virginia was approximately 5,000 acres. About 800 acres occurs on the Monongahela National Forest, Potomac district.

Carabid beetles Calosoma frigidum were numerous in the sods area when defoliation was taking place. These beetles are natural predators on various caterpillars.

It is thought a virus may occur in the populations in Jefferson County. Tree banding and egg mass surveys will take place in December and January to determine extent of damage to be caused in 1975.

Forest Tent Caterpillar - Malocosoma disstria

This insect seems to be on a low ebb in West Virginia. Only one hot spot occurs in Pocahontas County where moderate defoliation is taking place.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar - Malocosoma americana

After a complete collapse of this insect last year few nests were observed throughout the state this year. We can expect this insect to continue expanding in next few years.

Cherry Scallop Shell Moth - Calocalpe undulata

This insect has become more abundant the last few years. Cherry trees throughout the state are affected but no one particular area has been hard hit. The major area of concern seems to be in Randolph and Pocahontas County area.

Fall Webworm - Hyphantria cunea

Complete defoliation occurred to approximately 1,000 acres of hardwoods throughout Greenbrier, Preston and Tucker counties. This insect is very common throughout the entire state. If trends continue widespread defoliation could occur next year.

Locust Leaf Miner - Odonata dorsalis

Very heavy defoliation occurred throughout southern, western and central West Virginia. This seemed to be one of the largest infestations we have had.

The Red-humped Oakworm - Symmerista canicosta and Orange-humped Mapleworm - Symmerista leucitys

Approximately 1,000 acres of hardwoods were defoliated last year in the Middle Mountain area of Randolph County. It was thought defoliation would occur again this year. However a complete collapse took place in this area in 1974. It is not known if natural predators or virus caused the collapse.

Variable Oak Leaf Caterpillar - Heterocampa mantes

We were unable to find any larvae of this insect this year. In 1972 we experienced defoliation in a few areas of the state.

The Green Striped Mapleworm - Anisota rubicunda

This insect seems to be increasing but no damage or defoliation to any large degree was noticed. As populations develop we may expect some areas to have defoliation in 1975.

Saddled Prominent - Heterocampa guttivita

No specimens were collected or submitted to the laboratory in any large numbers to cause concern.

Oak Leaf Tier Complex - Croesia albicomana and others

The trees in the Pocahontas County area continue to be defoliated by this insect. Some sites in this county have changed due to mortality caused by this insect. A growth study has been conducted on this insect and results are available from the Plant Pest Control Division. Egg samplings for 1975 are not completed and predictions cannot be made at this time.

Orange-striped Oakworm - Anisota senatoria

Numerous specimens were submitted but no defoliation was noted in any large areas. Scattered defoliation did occur to occassional trees.

Gypsy Moth - Porthetria dispar

No eggs, pupae, or larvae have been found in West Virginia. However seven male moths were caught this year in West Virginia. Two new counties were added to the record - these being Morgan and Fayette. To date 24 male moths have been caught in West Virginia. We now have 9 counties with male moth catches.

Parasite releases have been made in male Gypsy moth catch areas and areas where native insects are abundant that would sustain the parasite populations. To date 43,350 Brachymeria intermedia, 1,400 Coccygominus sp. and 205 Meterous pulchricornus have been released in the state.

Walking Stick - Diapheromera femorata

Approximately 40 acres of Black locust were defoliated by the walking stick this year in Mineral County. This insect is becoming more noticeable throughout the state.

Satana Caterpillars - Datana sp.

These insects are abundant but in no one particular area are they causing problems.

The Periodical Cicada Brood XIV occurred in southern West Virginia this year. A part of this brood occurs in parts of Hampshire, Hardy, Berkeley and Morgan counties

The Pin Oak Sawfly - Caliroa lineata

This insect caused near complete defoliation to 1,600 acres in Summers County, 50 acres in Greenbrier County, and 15 acres in Monroe County. This insect seems to be increasing throughout southern West Virginia.

Conifer Defoliators and Engravers

Bagworm - Thridopteryx ephemeraeformis

Numerous reports were received in the laboratory this year concerning complete defoliation of ornamentals and evergreens around the home.

Virginia Pine Sawfly - Neodiprion pratte pratti

No problems with this insect this year. The eggs hatched in January and cold weather killed most larvae.

Red-headed Pine Sawfly - Neodiprion lecontei

Defoliation occurred to scattered pines throughout the state. Defoliated areas were small and of little concern.

Southern Pine Beetle - Tendroctnus frontalis

This insect is on the increase in West Virginia. A few plantations have finally died as a result of the insect attack. All infestations are in southern West Virginia.

The Nantucket Pine Tip Moth - Rhyrconia frustana

This insect is increasing in numbers and causing heavy damage to Christmas tree plantings in the state.